* Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

* 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plans have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.

* Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented. A decreasing trend in Air pollution has been observed recently in Delhi and Mumbai due to various pollution control measures taken by the Government.

Participation of Private Sector in Waste Disposal

4545. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to involve private sector in waste disposal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how Government plan to dispose off the increasing quantity of waste particularly in Urban areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Since waste disposal in urban areas is the responsibility of the Urban Local Bodies, it is for these bodies to plan and decide on the involvement of the private sector. It is understood that a few Municipal Corporations in the country have contracted out a part of the municipal functions on waste disposal to private parties.

The Ministry of Urban Development is involved in assisting the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies in policy formulation and sensitising them on private sector participation, as well as exposure to international experience in this area.

Disposal of Applications for Conversion of Leasehold to Freehold

4546. DR.Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received from Golf Link and Ganga Apartments areas of New Delhi for conversion of leasehold to free hold;